

CONFIDENTIAL

17 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Meeting with Senator Richard Russell
Re S. 782

1. The Director informed me of his meeting today with Senator Richard Russell regarding the Ervin bill, S. 782, during which Senator Russell said:

a. He had discussed the problem with Bill Darden and Bill Woodruff but was still somewhat at a loss to know what to do about it.

b. He feels that the Agency definitely should not testify in open session and will try to persuade Senator Ervin to hear us in executive session.

c. He feels Senator Ervin's mind is made up and there is little hope of persuading him to change his position.

d. With half of the Senate already sponsoring the bill, the chances of defeating it are dim.

e. We should shorten and rewrite the proposed letter from the Director to Senator Ervin, concentrating mainly on the relevant legal points and avoiding argumentation which might further alienate Senator Ervin.

2. The Director came away with the impression that Senator Russell feels there is little we can do on the Senate side and that our best bet is to focus our attention on the House side.

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